(d) whether it is a fact that restrictions on expenses of individual candidates is negated by the huge expense of the political parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS: (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Election Commission has, from time to time, among other proposals, also made a proposal for compulsory maintenance of accounts of political parties and audit thereof by agencies specified by the Election Commission.

(c) There has been no unanimity of views amongst political parties on the said proposal. The Dinesh Goswami Committee which had examined the proposal had also decided not to pursue it.

(d) Government has no information in this regard.

Migration from rural to urban areas

2336. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a large scale migration from rural to urban areas due to employment opportunities and other means of livelihood;

(b) if so, the number of people that have migrated to urban areas and the population of rural areas;

(c) whether more employment opportunities will be made available to rural people so as to reverse this trend; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to stop this exodus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) The number of persons who migrated from rural to urban areas for employment has not been estimated by the planning commission. However, the employment strategy envisaged in the 8th plan document, is expected to generate employment opportunities in the rural areas at a faster rate by diversification of growth on agriculture, development of infrastructure and marketing arrangments for agro-based and allied activities as well as better utilisation of wastelands for crop cultivation and forestry.

(c) and (d) To provide more employment opportunities in the rural areas, the Government has launched several special employment programmes nemely, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) for self employment and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) for wage employment. Under IRDP, persons below the poverty line are provided subsidy and term credit through financial institutions to purchase assets for income generation. The target group under this scheme covers small and marginal farmers, agricultral labourers and rural artisans. Similarly, JRY is a major wage employment programme, which aims to provide additional gainful employment to the unemployed and under employed persons in the rural areas. Since 1993-94, JRY has been intensified in 120 selected backward districts in the country where there is concentration of unemployment and under employment. Besides, the Government has also implemented with effect from October, 1993, Employment Assurance Scheme in 2446 backward blocks of the country which are situated in drought prone areas, desert areas, tribal areas and flood prone areas as well as hilly areas.

Other programmes to increase employment opportunities in rural areas include Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana and two million job scheme under Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

All these programme aim at checking the migration of rural people to urban areas in search of employment.